

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**Celeste Philip, MD, MPH**  
State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

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## ***DOH-Gulf Recognizes Tobacco-Free Apartment Complex***

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**Port St. Joe, Fla. –** The Florida Department of Health in Gulf County and the Gulf County Tobacco Free Partnership would like to recognize Hallmark Companies, Inc. for making Pine Ridge Apartment Complex, located in Port St. Joe, tobacco free.

“Everyone benefits from a smokefree housing policy,” said Marsha Lindeman, Administrator for the Florida Department of Health in Gulf and Franklin Counties. “Smokefree buildings are cost-effective, safe, and keep people healthy. We congratulate Hallmark Companies, Inc. for taking this vital step to implement tobacco-free changes.”

New signage purchased by the Tobacco Free Partnership of Gulf County will be displayed around buildings. In addition, Pine Ridge Management will be teaming up with Big Bend Area Health Education Center (AHEC) to offer free cessation classes for current residents.

The Bureau of Tobacco Free Florida has identified 1131 smokefree multiunit properties which equates to more than 186,400 smokefree housing units statewide.<sup>1</sup> There is free assistance available to help condo owners, associations and property managers implement smokefree policies. For more information, visit <http://tobaccofreeflorida.com/current-issues/smokefree-housing/>.

**About Tobacco Free Florida**

The department’s Tobacco Free Florida campaign is a statewide cessation and prevention campaign funded by Florida’s tobacco settlement fund. Since the program began in 2007, more than 159,000 Floridians have successfully quit using one of Tobacco Free Florida’s free tools and services. There are now approximately 451,000 fewer adult smokers in Florida than there was 10 years ago, and the state has saved \$17.7 billion in health care costs. To learn more about Tobacco Free Florida’s Quit Your Way services, visit [www.tobaccofreeflorida.com](http://www.tobaccofreeflorida.com) or follow the campaign on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/TobaccoFreeFlorida](http://www.facebook.com/TobaccoFreeFlorida) or on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/tobaccofreefla](http://www.twitter.com/tobaccofreefla).

**About the Florida Department of Health**

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> Florida Smokefree Multiunit Housing Survey, Florida Department of Health, March 2017.